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REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

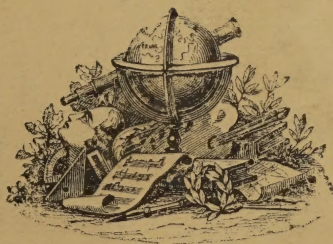
OF THE

Town of Greenville,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1,

1873.



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1873.

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SCHOOL REPORT.

FELLOW CITIZENS: This being the first School Report of the town of Greenville, and for only two-thirds of the year, it will not be expected that your committee can give a full exhibit of their progress and results. It must be evident to you that some change in our school system, as received by us, will not only be desirable, but necessary. What these changes shall be, is for your wisdom to devise and execute. One subject should press upon your immediate consideration; that of the division of the school money, so that districts Nos. 5 and 6 may have as liberal a share as before the division of the town. It may be expedient, sooner or later, to constitute the town one district, so as to give each school equal terms. We do not realize the highest excellencies of the graded school in district No. 3, nor shall we until we are able to support a head master, who shall have the privilege of selecting his own teachers, and be made responsible for the discipline and the resulting devel-

opments of each division. It is also desirable, whenever means will permit, to form a higher department of instruction for the convenience of those who go elsewhere to find such privileges ; and for the benefit of others who desire to go beyond the limited studies of the common school, but do not feel able to meet the expense of tuition away from home. These, and other questions relating to our educational interests, will come to the foreground of thought, from time to time, which we should meet in the true spirit of advancing ideas.

DISTRICT NO. III.

Primary School.

Fall Term—No. of scholars, 41 ; weeks of school, 10 ; *Winter Term*—No. of scholars, 23 ; weeks of school, 12 ; wages of teacher per month, \$32 ; Miss Julia A. Goodwin, teacher.

In this department, for some years past, a gradual change seems to have been progressing. The children of foreign parentage and language have been increasing, while the native born are diminishing. A very large proportion of the school is now of the first named, so that a teacher labors under much difficulty in teaching them to pronounce English words at school, while they talk only French at home. Another obstacle to progress in this department, especially during the winter term, is the falling off of so many of its pupils from attendance ; this, together with the inconstancy of those who do attend, has brought up to the mind of your committee the necessity either to grade differently, or, upon the principle

of economy, to omit the winter term of this division, giving two longer terms in summer and fall. I give only the opinion of one who has watched and considered the matter for years, but the contrast is so palpable this term that I have ventured to speak what I think. Miss Goodwin has managed well, and the school has made progress.

Intermediate School.

Fall Term—No. of scholars, 27; No. of weeks, 10;
Winter Term—No. of scholars, 28; No. of weeks, 12;
 wages of teacher per month, \$32; Miss Belle A. Brown, teacher, both terms.

This school has made decided progress under the direction of its active teacher. We noticed an earnest zeal in her work not often surpassed, and most of her pupils seemed to appreciate her devotion to and care for them. With few exceptions, they well understood their daily lessons could not be neglected. The classes in mental arithmetic and geography, in their review lessons, indicated a good knowledge of principles and facts as far as they had proceeded. Nearly all the pupils attended to writing. A class in written arithmetic must not be forgotten. It had not proceeded far, but is commended for accuracy in repeating rules and applying them. We think the school has been well directed in all its details, for which we are indebted to its judicious teacher.

Grammar School.

Fall Term—No. of scholars, 41; weeks of school, 10; wages of teacher per month, \$32; Miss Sarah L. Mecuen had charge of the school for this term. Her

talents for the position are generally known in the district, as she has taught here several terms previous to this. She has that off-hand, energetic manner, which if properly directed, is of great value to our schools, as quickening thought and stimulating the scholar in his work. Her labor in its results was noted for fidelity to perfect recitations. In the discipline, there was nothing in particular to criticise. It was good for a school surrounded by village excitements, and the consequent nervous state of pupils. The numerous classes in this school is a severe tax upon the skill and strength of the teacher. The reviews at the close were well sustained. Among its pupils are a few whose intellectual attainments, for their years, are not often found.

Winter Term—No. of scholars, 42; weeks of school, 12; wages of teacher per month, \$60; William Moore, teacher.

It may seem unnecessary to remark upon the qualities of this term of our grammar school. The eighty visitors during its progress and at its close, must have received and given the impression as to its merits. Suffice it to say that the school has well sustained its former good record under this same teacher. A new feature in the school was phonetic exercises, in which the school manifested a good degree of skill in distinguishing the elementary sounds of the letters. In short, all the reviews were excellent, and for the limited time given to each, highly satisfactory. This school room is not what it should be in every respect. Made pleasant with modern conveniences, it is defi-

cient in space for its increasing numbers, and quite annoying to both school and visitors at the examinations. Sufficient ventilation, with due regard to health, cannot be secured without enlargement.

DISTRICT NO. V.

Fall Term—Miss M. Edna Mecuen, teacher.

There is little to report respecting this term of the school. A very unpleasant state of things was observed on visiting the district—parents withholding confidence from the teacher, and keeping their children from school. So general was the dislike, that only four of the sixteen pupils in the district were found in the school room. The teacher, by advice of the agent, decided to close after four weeks' session.

Winter Term—No. of scholars, 16 ; weeks of school, 12 ; wages of teacher per month, \$24. This term was committed to the care of Miss Addie A. Barrett, a young teacher of limited experience in school keeping, but with fair literary attainments. The government of the school was well sustained, judging from appearances when visited by your committee. If there might have been some improprieties on the part of some, we think it did not become a very serious hindrance to the general prosperity of the term. The close of the school in the reviews indicated a good move forward, and accuracy in the ground explored. A class in Algebra was a new element in this school. It would be a good move in the right direction for this district to make their school to be more in harmony with modern improvements. It would pay a large per-

centage in the cost of education. The child is more in love with study in a pleasant room.

DISTRICT NO. VI.

Fall Term—No. of scholars, 16 ; weeks of school, 9. *Winter Term*—No. of scholars, 19 ; weeks of school, 10 ; wages of teacher, fall term, \$28 ; winter, \$32 ; Miss Emma F. Davis, teacher, both terms.

The district has the past year remodeled their school room, giving to it a quality of symmetry and comfort that is pleasant to see. They have furnished their room with geographical charts, globes, clock, and means of ample ventilation. They have also been successful in introducing a teacher much in harmony with its surroundings. Miss Davis has given much satisfaction by her earnest application to the work, and by securing the confidence of the elder members of the school ; they contributing much, by consistent example, to the maintainance of that orderly quiet that pervaded this school room. We commend the scholars for diligent study, the teacher for her good judgment in directing, as well as tact in teaching ; the good results of which were well exemplified at the close of each term.

M. C. DODGE,

● Superintending Committee Fall and Winter Terms.

No. of District.		Names of Teachers.	Residence.	Prud. Com.	Town Appropriation, Literary and Boynton Fund.														
FALL TERM.						No. Scholars for the term	Average Attendance.	Number Tardy.	No. not absent $\frac{1}{2}$ day.	Visits by S. S. Committee.	Visits by Prud. Com.	Number of Visitors.	Amount of Money per Scholar.	No. in Reading & Spelling.	Number in Arithmetic.	Number in Grammar.	Number in Geography.	Number in Writing.	Number in Algebra.
3	JULIA A. GOODWIN, <i>Primary.</i>	Mason.	F. B. Heald.	\$905 00	41	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	41	5	3	29	7	12	41	14	14				
3	BELL A. BROWN, <i>Intermediate.</i>	New Ipswich.	F. B. Heald.		27	22	56	2	3	19			27	25		21	24		
3	S. L. MECUEN, <i>Grammar.</i>	Greenville.	F. B. Heald.		41	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	70	3	2	30			41	41	14	19	5		
5	M. EDNA MECUEN,	Greenville.	J. A. Barrett.	153 00	4	3 $\frac{3}{4}$				39	56	4	4	1	2	3			
6	EMMA F. DAVIS, <i>WINTER TERM--Primary.</i>	Fitchburg.	M. Nutting.	171 31	16	12	23	2	3	1	43	7	8	16	9	2	3	7	
3	JULIA A. GOODWIN, <i>Intermediate.</i>	Mason.			23	19	51	1	3	1	30		23	8		8			
3	BELL A. BROWN, <i>Grammar.</i>	New Ipswich.			28	24	82	3	4	1	34		28	27		19	23		
3	WILLIAM MOORE,	Peterboro'.			42	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	36	6	3	2	80		42	42	16		3	7	
5	ADDIE A. BARRETT,	Wilton.			16	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	12	2	2	1	11		16	13	7	12	13	3	
6	EMMA F. DAVIS,	Fitchburg.			19	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	110	2	3	3	45		19	17	5	5	13		



